

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 03116 270954Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ARA-10 /071 W
-----051529 271014Z /12

P R 270900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5167
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SANA 3116

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, YE, YS
SUBJ: REPORTED EXECUTION PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYI ALI

1. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT REPORTS REACHING US BY
RADIO FROM ADEN THAT SALIM RUBAYI ALI AND TWO OTHERS
HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. WE DOUBT THAT REBELLION CAN CONTINUE
WITHOUT HIS LEADERSHIP.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR MAJOR AND PERHAPS ONLY HOPE OF MANI-
PULATING SOUTH YEMEN FROM WITHIN HAS BEEN DESTROYED ALONG WITH
SALIM. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT RIVALRIES WITHIN SOUTH YEMEN
WERE NOT RPT NOT PLAYACTING BUT REAL AND MORTAL DIFFERENCES
WITHIN TOP OF LEADERSHIP IN PDRY.

3. OBSERVERS IN MIDDLE EAST WILL DRAW LITTLE COMFORT
FROM FACT THAT TWO CHIEFS OF STATE IN MIDDLE EAST
WHO SOUGHT TO LIMIT COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS WERE KILLED
IN SAME WEEK. WE BELIEVE IT INEVITABLE THAT ANY MIDDLE

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EAST LEADER THINKING OF OPPOSING SOVIETS WILL BE GIVEN
PAUSE BY THESE EVENTS, AND THAT SOVIETS NOW LOOM LARGER
IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

4. FROM PERSPECTIVE OF SANA EVENTS CAN BE READ IN TWO
WAYS. ONE IS THAT REBELLION WILL INEVITABLY BE FOLLOWED
BY PURGES IN ARMY WHICH WILL WEAKEN PDRY IN ANY EFFORT

IT MAY WISH TO LAUNCH AGAINST YAR. REPRESSION WHICH WILL FOLLOW MURDER OF ONLY PDRY LEADER WITH ANY POPULARITY WILL ALSO STAY THE HAND OF ABD AL-FATTAH ISMAIL IN HIS EFFORTS TO EXPORT REVOLUTION. ALTERNATIVE VIEW IS THAT AL-FATTAH HAS AT LAST CLEARED LAST OBSTACLE TO COMPLETELY RADICAL POLICY OF SUBVERSION AGAINST DHOFAR AND YAR AND COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN MAJOR MILITARY EFFORTS. YEMENIS, OF COURSE, EXPECT RAPID INCREASE OF PRESSURE FROM SOUTH; THAT IS, THEY SUBSCRIBE TO SECOND VIEW EXPRESSED ABOVE. EMBASSY SANA IS DIVIDED IN ITS OPINION THIS SUBJECT BUT, WHICHEVER READING OF FUTURE EVENTS IS ADOPTED, IT IS CLEAR THAT SOMETHING, SOONER OR LATER, WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO CONTAIN SOUTH YEMEN AND ITS BACKERS.
RANSOM

SECRET

NNN

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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, YE, YS, (ALI, SALIM RUBAYI)
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